

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method for tracking the distribution of controlled articles from a central inventory of a pharmaceutical company in real time by means of electronic communication and data collection, comprising:

- a) receiving in a system server, a distribution request from a remote distributing representative of a pharmaceutical company for distribution of a packet of articles to a distributee, the request comprising a representative identifier, a distributee identifier, and a statement describing the contents of the packet of articles being distributed from a local inventory associated with the distributing representative;
- b) confirming the authority of the distributing representative to distribute the packet;
- c) confirming the authority of the distributee to receive the packet;
- d) evaluating the distribution request for propriety meeting specific business logic specified by the pharmaceutical company;
- e) transmitting an authorization code to the distributing representative;
- f) deleting a description of the packet's contents from the local inventory and the central inventory; and
- g) distributing the packet to the distributee.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): A method of Claim 1 in which the controlled articles are prescription drug samples.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A method of Claim 2 in which ~~the distributing representative is a pharmaceutical company's sales representative~~ and the distributees are licensed dispensing practitioners.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Previously presented): A method of Claim 1 in which the request is received from the remote distributing representative over a communication path including a wireless link.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A method of Claim 1 including the step of transmitting the request and the authorization code to the ~~central inventory's proprietor pharmaceutical company~~.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A method of Claim 1 including transmitting a corrective action message to the distributing representative if the evaluation step results in an initial denial of authorization.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): A method of Claim 1 in which the request is received from the remote distributing representative by means of electronic transmission of information entered on a sample disbursement form.

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (New): A method of Claim 1 in which the specific business logic includes meeting requirements for distribution specified by governmental regulations.